

asthmatic, crawling through the smoke was difficult, but Stephanie did not hesitate to take the risk and through her courage saved the lives of three children.

In this day and age when genuine heroes are all too rare in our society, Stephanie dismisses attention to her feat by calling it "just part of my job as a babysitter." Such modesty is yet another admirable trait of this extraordinary young woman. As her Representative in the U.S. House, I rise today to honor Stephanie Wenderoth as a true hometown hero.

IMMIGRATION IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2202) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Smith amendment to the Immigration in the National Interest Act. I want to commend him for his commitment to this issue and for offering this important amendment. It is crucial to the safety and security of those trying to escape terrible regimes and to this Nation's international leadership role on asylum.

America must continue to shoulder its international responsibility to afford asylum to its fair share of those who are repressed and are at risk in their countries. As a Nation of immigrants, we must leave our door open and continue to admit those persons fleeing from places which do not practice the values and beliefs we hold so dear. At the same time, it is clear that the United States cannot admit all those who would want to come here for solely economic reasons. However, we have a duty to those who seek admittance for humanitarian reasons. The United States has traditionally accepted refugees not for the economic and social reasons but because refugees are usually in grave danger.

H.R. 2202 would limit annual refugee admissions to 75,000 in fiscal year 1997 and 50,000 every year thereafter. This represents a significant decrease from the 98,000 refugees and no legitimate rationale has been given as to why this level was achieved. This would require drastic reductions in the number of former Soviet Jews, Evangelical Christians, Ukrainian Catholics, Vietnamese, Bosnians, and Cubans, Chinese, and Africans.

The current refugee resettlement system works by allowing the executive and legislative branch to consult on an annual basis on what the appropriate levels should be. This provides greater flexibility and the ability to respond to changes which occur throughout the world

with refugees. On the other hand, the cap in the bill is inflexible and will not provide us with appropriate mechanisms to respond to refugee developments. Congress already has control over the number of refugees through the budget process. If we believe the administration's estimated levels are inappropriate, the Congress can choose not to fund them.

The best solution to the world's refugee crisis is to work with other nations so that they can assume an appropriate share of the international refugee burden. We need the cooperation of our international neighbors. If we decrease our own refugee by half, we send the wrong message to those nations.

I again want to thank Mr. SMITH for offering this amendment and urge my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN BEGUN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding achievements of a community leader who is truly dedicated to public service.

Martin S. Begun serves as senior associate dean of the New York University School of Medicine and vice president of external affairs of New York University Medical Center. Dean Begun serves as liaison to government officials on the city, State and Federal level. In addition, Marty oversees the public affairs and alumni relations offices of NYU Medical Center and School of Medicine.

In July of 1995, in tribute to his years of activism and leadership in the Jewish community, Marty also assumed the presidency of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. JCRC is a representative organization encompassing over 60 major civic, communal, educational and religious groups within New York City's diverse Jewish community.

As long as I have known Marty, he has been deeply involved in community service. He is a man who lives by the Talmudic maxim: "If I am not for myself, who will be? and if I'm only for myself, what am I?"

Marty has worked tirelessly to raise the standards of the NYU Medical School. That is a critical task which affects Americans nationwide. Three medical schools in New York, NYU Medical School included, train approximately 15 percent of all doctors who practice medicine in the United States. What is good for NYU Medical School is good for the American people.

Marty is always up-to-date on public policy. A long-time advocate for compassionate care for the homeless mentally ill, Marty often advises prominent public figures on the subjects of health care, public health, community relations and Jewish affairs. He was an excellent resource for me when health care reform was at the top of the national agenda in the 103d Congress. He advised me on the viability of the Clinton health plan, taking into consideration how it would impact not just the hospital and the medical school, but my constituents and New York City in general.

While he sees the big picture, Marty never loses sight of the details. Throughout his tenure at NYU, Marty has seen to it that expan-

sion of the NYU Medical Center complex has been carried out with great sensitivity to quality of life in the community.

Until 1994, Marty also served the city of New York for 18 years as chairman of the community services board of the city's department of mental health, mental retardation and alcoholism services. He continues to sit on the boards of the executive committee of the Associated Medical Schools of New York, and, by appointment of the Governor of New York State, on the Battery Park City Authority.

Mr. Speaker, for all of his good work; for his compassion; for his commitment to his community, his city and his country, Marty Begun has earned a reputation as mensch. I owe Marty a debt of gratitude for doing so much fine work in my district. And the city of New York owes him much, much more.

SUERJEE LEE WINS HIGH PRAISE FOR HELPING IMPROVE TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young Minnesotan, Ms. Suerjee Lee, for being recognized with the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Ms. Lee is receiving the award for her volunteerism in the Twin Cities community, and is one of only two youths in my home State of Minnesota to be honored this year.

Her volunteer efforts span many segments of the community. She spends time with elderly residents of a nearby nursing home and serves as a mentor for special education students at her school. Ms. Lee is also involved in a project called Fresh Force, a volunteer organization which performs a variety of community service activities. One such activity included beautification of the Mississippi riverfront by removing trash from the area. Recently, she was selected to represent St. Paul's Battle Creek School Fresh Force Program at a regional meeting of Fresh Force program participants. It is for this hard work and her dedication to our community and its citizens that she is being honored.

In addition to her volunteer efforts, Ms. Lee, who is an eighth-grader at Battle Creek Middle School, still finds time to remain an excellent student and participate in student government.

Eight years ago she entered public school unable to speak English. Now, not only is she fluent in English, she is an "A" student and, therefore, a member of the National Honor Society. She also holds the position of vice president of Battle Creek Middle School's Student Council.

A selection committee will soon choose 10 individuals from the list of State winners of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award to be their national award winners. Regardless of that decision, the citizens of the Twin Cities community and Battle Creek Middle School have already received a higher honor and great benefit, Suerjee Lee's leadership and hard work on behalf of the future of our community. Her efforts not only serve to improve the lives of our citizens and improve the quality of life in the Twin Cities, she has demonstrated the importance of volunteerism and